



3738  
#1048  
5-3103  
Docket No. HRT-0293

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Stevens et al.  
Serial No. : 10/099,690 Art Unit : 3738  
Filed : March 15, 2002 Examiner : D. Isabella  
Title : Method and Apparatus for Thoracoscopic Intracardiac Procedures

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May 20, 2003  
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Brian S. Tomko  
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

*BS Tomko*  
(Signature)

May 20, 2003  
(Date of Signature)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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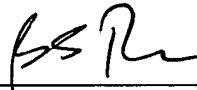
COMMUNICATION

Dear Sir:

Further to the Response filed on May 16, 2003, and in response to the Office Action mailed on December 18, 2002, the time for responding having been extended by petition, Applicants wish to communicate that the assignee of this application does not own U.S. Patent No. 6,161,543 (Cox), the patent cited by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action mailed on December 18, 2002, in support of the Examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 38-45.

Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned if a discussion of the issues would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
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